

THE MORNING NEWS

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US extends closure of embassies

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it was extending the closure of some of its embassies and consulates in the Mideast and Africa through August 10, over security fears.

The US State Department said a small number of additional posts would also be closed, while certain others were to reopen today.

Kiwanis members collaborate for their annual "School Stuff for Kids" project



Aruba has two chapters of the international service organization, Kiwanis. There is the Kiwanis Club of Aruba and Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach. Both conduct several commu-

nity projects during the year, but prefer to collaborate on a few, for great effectiveness.

One of these is their annual drive to provide everything needed for the new school year

for less fortunate children. Aruba's schools require monogrammed uniforms, usually with dark pants, skirt or shorts.

Continued on page 2

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Aruban youth Zaythiel Soekander makes his name in the BMX Sport



See story on page 2

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Closure of different road crossings in Oranjestad

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Public Works (DOW) announces to all motorists that as of today, August 5, the department will perform construction work to install drainage pipes in different locations in Oranjestad. Due to this, different road crossing will be closed.

The schedule is as follows:

- **August 5, 2013:** Crossing Zuidstraat adjacent to Zuidstraat nr. 23
- **August 6, 2013:** Crossing Steenweg - Oude Schoolstraat partially
- **August 7, 2013:** Yard of the Oranjestad Police Station
- **August 8, 2013:** Crossing Zuidstraat adjacent to Zuidstraat nr. 7
- **August 10, 2013:** Crossing Middenweg - Oude Schoolstraat
- **August 12, 2013:** Crossing Windstraat - Oude Schoolstraat
- **August 24, 2013:** Crossing J. G. Emanstraat - Oude Schoolstraat



All above mentioned crossings will be closed for two (2) working days in order to cover the drainage pipes. There will be traffic signs and barricades to advise motorists.

DOW asks all drivers to take good notice of any traffic detour and also to pay good attention to the traffic signs, barricades, etc.

DOW apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Aruban youth Zaythiel Soekander makes his name in the BMX Sport



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Prime Minister Eman was at hand to welcome back three cyclists who recently competed in the BMX sport in New Zealand. Zaythiel Soekander won fourth place in this competition in the male category of the 15-16 year ages. Also present were Minister of Sports Richard Visser, friends, family members and the proud parents of the cyclists.

Zaythiel has expressed the wish for the grounds where they train to be improved and the government has indicated that this will receive their due attention. They will ensure that the facility is improved to be able to take them to the next level in their training. The Rough Riders training complex will be renovated soon, according to the government.

The Prime Minister ex-

pressed his pride for Zaythiel and the team. He indicated that they are an inspiration for other young people. They are an example for other young people and their achievement cannot go unnoticed.

We join with the rest of Aruba and congratulate you and your team Zaythiel...keep up the good work.

Photo shows Minister Eman with the cyclists and their trainers

Kiwanis members collaborate...

Continued from page 1

Celebrating their 5th year of providing these essentials and other important items for youngsters of struggling families, the Kiwanis members were proud to treat 50 school children, ages four to twelve, to breakfast, a shopping spree and then finish the day with lunch and bowling at the Eagle Bowling Palace. A great portion of that final treat was sponsored by Izaira Mansur of Gari & Wasabi.

The youngsters were picked up from around the island on busses provided by Deals on Wheels. They came from five

school districts and attend 15 different schools from kindergarten through sixth grade.

After a delightful breakfast at Cinnabon, the children were taken to Geekay Department Store in Oranjestad to be completely outfitted with everything they needed to start the school year, including underwear, sneakers, and pants and shorts to go with their personalized monogrammed shirts obtained from Impex. Included with those necessities were schoolbags with beautiful graphics, loaded with all the school supplies needed to take

them through the year.

The children who benefit from the program are selected through recommendations from the government's social agency working with needy families and other foundations dedicated to their welfare.

Organizers of the annual project reported they doubled the number of students in their annual program, which resulted in a very busy, joyful day they enjoyed just as much as the youngsters.

Rosalie Klein

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Pointers to Ponder?



Tony A.D. Green

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What can Election Results Mean for Aruba?

On September 27th, we will know who were the winners and the losers. No, it's not too soon to think about what the results can mean for Aruba.

We are not going to speculate, nor prophesy nor predict anything!! We can only surmise what the results could mean based on our current situation and the political trends.

First of all, election results could mean: the Status Quo! Government and government management and philosophy could remain unchanged. For many, this is what would make them happy; to be able to continue everything unchanged... I call this the Status Quo of election results. Others would be terribly discouraged and would hate the Status Quo.

Secondly, election results could mean: the Quasi Sta-

tus! Government and government management and philosophy could be a combination of people, ideas and minds. Many, aspire to see this kind of result... I call this the Quasi Status of election results. This means that a lot of what we see today may be drastically modified or even totally changed to satisfy the combination of people, minds and ideas.

Then, there is still a potentially third result; I call this the Surprise Status! Government and government management and philosophy could come swinging in from the least expected angle and surprise everyone. Grant you, many will say that this is an unlikely result given the constellation, political culture and cultural trends of the island.

However, we can never make predictions and must

expect every potential scenario.

Whatever happens on September 27, one thing is certain, Aruba must be well served with whichever result we get. The primary objective at the end of the day ought to be... how well can we serve the good and deserving people of this One Happy Island?

The Status Quo may be an inviting concept to many, while the Quasi Status is what would please others, but any other result should also incite us to roll up our sleeves and get to work as one people for the betterment of our land!

What do you want...? If this was helpful, let me know at: tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com.

Sarah-Quita: "my studies and Sports must be well balanced"



Sarah-Quita, Aruba's world champion windsurfer, recently paid a courtesy visit to the office of Minister of Sports and Health, Richard Visser where the two met and discussed various matters related to her successful career in the world of windsurfing.

Sarah-Quita is one of Aruba's jewels who do much to promote the island. Her image in promoting Aruba with her many achievements is priceless and very unique.

The Minister had many words of praise for her valuable contribution to the island and for her inspiration for other young people.

There are Aruban youngsters who are making their name in other sports, such as BMX, synchronized swimming, baseball, etc. Now, for the first time, Aruba has the possibility to classify for Olympic Games.

Continued on page 5

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Stephen and Barbara Heiligman honored at Marriott Surf Club



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Barbara Heiligman from Cheshire Connecticut, and loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club. The certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Luzdary Leest representing the Marriott Surf Club.

Lieutenant Colonel Hofma transfers commando to ten Hove

SAVANETA -- After a period of 4 years, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Aruba Marine Corps Edwin Hofma transferred his commando over to his successor Lieutenant Colonel Jan ten Hove. The ceremony took place last Friday at the Marine Camp in Savaneta.

Hofma looks back on his period as base commander on Aruba in a way that is best described by involvement. Involvement with the Aruban people by means of the Social Forming Trajectory by the Aruban militia. Involvement by the Aruban people, among others, the relief effort after the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

According to Ten Hove he sees his commando as a challenge to implement the mission of the Commander of the Dutch forces in the Caribbean.

That mission is the commitment and the readiness of the Marine Expeditionary units in the Caribbean, for international legal order and stability and the support to civil authorities.

The new commander looks forward to an excellent civilian-military cooperation



Early Bird Menu

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will certainly feel at least the latter after a visit to Aruba's only authentic Jamaican restaurant, the newly opened Jamaica Mi Irie in San Nicolas.

The kitchen is the beloved effort of well known island chef, Jeffrey Roy Elliott, the master in the kitchen of Elliott's Italian restaurant adjacent to Costa Linda. Jeffrey has gone back to his Jamaican roots for this enthu-

siastic effort with his wife Daisy, who loves being the happy hostess.

The regular menu features the traditional cuisine such as Jerk Chicken, Fried Chicken, Beef oxtail, Stewed Pork, Jerk Pork, Fried Fish plus a house specialty, Curried Goat. These are regular items, but Jeffrey prefers to pepper his menu with various "Specials of the Day" made from what is fresh and seasonal.

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Jeffrey Elliott and wife Daisy

This very cute, cozy place is open for **lunch** and **dinner** daily, except Sundays and Mondays, from 11:00 AM until 10:00 PM. It is located directly across from the BSL Laundry on Captain Rodgerstraat, which runs along the refinery wall parallel to the San Nicolas main street.

Call us at: 5889027 or find us on facebook: Jamaica Mi Irie Aruba.

Sarah-Quita...

Continued from page 3

According to Visser, this is indicative of the improvement we have made in the field of sports during the past years.

Sarah-Quita is currently completing her bachelor's degree in Holland. She maintains her sport at a high level and is still in the **NUMBER ONE** position in the Freestyle of windsurfing in the world. In April she is expected to complete her education, then to take a break to continue with her Master's degree.

Sarah-Quita has just returned from Fuente Ventura in the Canary Islands where she won for the sixth time. The

first time she won a competition was there when she was 15 years of age. In September she is expected to compete in Holland, after which she will be off to Turkey to compete.

She claims that her studies help her mentally, making her more alert. "Because I study so much," she said, "I often go into the water well motivated to do even better."

Education and sports must be well balanced, she says. After her bachelor's she will be taking a break to train again, she indicated. We are all proud of your girl, keep up the excellent work!

RBC Royal Bank closes 4th edition of Art Rules Aruba with a huge Arts Festival

Also breaking the record with the most participants in Art Rules Aruba after 4 years!

With Ira and Ayra Kip at the helm of the Pancake Gallery foundation and producers of Art Rules Aruba, twin sisters Kip have once again accomplished to bring hundreds of artistic teens together in their 2 week intensive workshop program. Art Rules Aruba is the number 1 arts program not only designed to train, cultivate, empower and inspire young people on Aruba but also offer a platform for arts education that is relevant to today's arts industry. "It is imperative to us that this program exposes our students to contemporary artistic instruction while training with the best artists from around world. We are sure that ARA students will undoubtedly carry the lessons of Art Rules Aruba with them for life and level their playing field in today's Arts scene," the Kip sisters explain!

Presented at Abraham de Veer College, Art Rules Aruba debuted in San Nicolas as the project has always been presented in Oranjestad. This turned "Pariba" into a true international and cultural hub for the last two weeks in July as artists from around the world flew in to offer workshops in 9 arts disciplines including, DJ, Creative Media, Dance, Theater, Street Art, Fashion, Music & performance, Rap & Poetry and this year's bonus workshop Culinary Arts.

At the end of the two weeks the public got to enjoy a big Arts festival at the same place where the classes were held, Abraham de Veer College, that included indoor and outdoor exhibitions, showcases, stage performances, open air screenings, a red carpet fashion show, acoustic jazz sessions, food and drink stands from San Nicolas' Caribbean festival



a platform for the 200+ students to show what they have learned and the phenomenal talent they hold.

RBC Royal Bank is excited and proud of the accomplishments of the program and together with the Pancake Gallery Foundation are already in talks of not only bringing the project back for a 5th run but also taking it abroad to another island. Whatever the next move is, Art Rules Aruba will



continue to allow local youth complete freedom of expression, cultivation of their skills and show the world how much talent Aruba has to offer.



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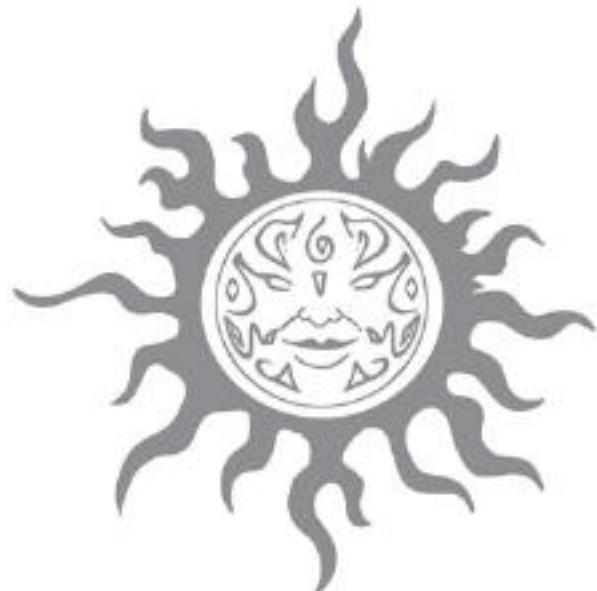
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Man charged with murder over deadly Venice Beach crash

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A 38-year-old man was charged with murder yesterday after allegedly slamming his car into tourists on California's famous Venice Beach boardwalk, killing an Italian woman on her honeymoon and injuring 11 others, police said.

Nathan Campbell was charged with murder early yesterday and held on \$1 million bail after the horrific incident at the popular Los Angeles tourist haunt.

Witnesses of the crash, which occurred at around 6:00 pm local time (0100 GMT) on Saturday, said the driver of the high-powered Dodge Avenger appeared to deliberately aim at pedestrians.

Italian woman Alice Grup-

pioni, 32, died following the crash, coroner's investigator Kristy McCracken said. An autopsy was pending.

Another victim remained in critical condition, two were listed as serious while eight other victims were being treated for less-serious injuries, Los Angeles Police Department officer Andy Nieman said.

The driver of the car allegedly fled the scene immediately after the crash.

The suspect later turned himself in for questioning at Santa Monica police station where he was formally arrested, Nieman said.

If he did intentionally drive into the crowds, his motive is still unknown, police said.

The incident was caught on surveillance footage captured by cameras at photo-sharing app Snapchat's Venice Beach offices.

Campbell left a path of destruction in his wake as he smashed into gift stands and scattered clothes across the walkway.

Venice Beach boardwalk is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Los Angeles, and is packed daily with visitors browsing shops and stalls. It is also home to "Muscle Beach", an outdoor gym set beside the Pacific Ocean popular with bodybuilders.

It packed with pedestrians on Saturday enjoying the fun atmosphere and ocean views.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mideast missions in lock-down as US eyes Qaeda threat

SANA, Yemen (AFP) - Security was tight at US missions in and around the Arab world yesterday amid urgent Washington talks on an Al-Qaeda threat that prompted the closure of at least 25 diplomatic missions.

Measures were particularly strict in Yemen's capital, where Britain, France and Germany also closed their embassies following a US warning which lawmakers in Washington said involved Al-Qaeda's joint Yemeni and Saudi branch.

But the US alert spread across most Arab capitals and extended farther afield to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Israel, with embassies and other diplomatic missions closed yesterday, the first day of the working week in many Islamic countries.

In Sanaa, special forces with armoured personnel carriers were stationed outside the American embassy and the missions of Britain, France and Germany, an AFP correspondent reported.

Police and army checkpoints were set up on all the Yemeni capital's main thoroughfares.

Residents said they heard the sound of a drone overhead, which could only be American as Washington is the sole power to operate the unmanned aircraft in the region.

Washington considers Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to be the jihadist network's most active and dangerous branch, and has waged an intensifying drone war against AQAP militants in Yemen.

In Jordan, authorities beefed up security around the closed US mission.

"Authorities have conducted a sweep for explosives at all US diplomatic locations and beefed up security measures around the US embassy," a Jordanian security official told AFP.

US National Security Adviser Susan Rice chaired White House talks to review Washington's response to the threat it revealed on Friday of a major Al-Qaeda attack during August in the Middle East or North Africa.

President Barack Obama did not attend but was briefed afterwards.

Early last week, "the president instructed his national security team to take all appropriate steps to protect the American people in light of a potential threat occurring in or emanating from the Arabian Peninsula," a White House

statement said.

Although Washington has responded to terrorist threats before by closing diplomatic missions, this was believed to be the most widespread closure ever, covering at least 25 embassies and consulates.

"I've spent 21 years in the CIA, and I don't think I've ever seen 22 embassies closed simultaneously. This is very, very unusual," Robert Baer, a former US case officer in the Middle East, told CNN.

Baer said the US action comes amid an Al-Qaeda resurgence, including prison breaks in Libya and Iraq in which hundreds of inmates have escaped, and turmoil in Egypt, Mali and elsewhere in the region.

US lawmakers briefed on the intelligence called the threat reporting among the most serious they have seen in recent years, reminiscent of the intelligence chatter that preceded the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Interpol global security alert

The chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Michael McFaul, said it was "probably one of the most specific and credible threats I've seen, perhaps, since 9/11".

An attack appeared to be "imminent", possibly timed to coincide with the last night of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which could be Wednesday depending on lunar sightings, he said.

The White House talks were held as Interpol issued a global security alert after hundreds of militants were freed in jail-breaks linked to Al-Qaeda.

The worldwide police agency said it suspected Al-Qaeda was involved in jail-breaks across nine countries, notably Iraq, Libya and Pakistan, that had "led to the escape of hundreds of terrorists and other criminals" in the past month alone.

General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC News that the threats were directed at Western interests, and were "more specific" than previous threats.

While an exact target was unknown, "the intent seems clear. The intent is to attack Western, not just US, interests," Dempsey said.

The State Department issued a worldwide travel alert to US citizens, warning of the "potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems and other tourist infrastructure".

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International News

Iran's Rowhani sworn in, urges West to talk



TEHRAN (AFP) - New President Hassan Rowhani, a reputed moderate, told the West after taking the oath of office on Sunday the only way to interact with Iran is through dialogue, not sanctions.

The 64-year-old cleric took over from hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose provocative policies in two turbulent four-year terms left Iran divided domestically, isolated internationally and struggling economically.

The West is hoping that Rowhani will take a more constructive approach in long-running talks on Tehran's controversial nuclear drive, which despite Iranian denials is suspected by world powers of having military objectives.

"If you want a proper answer, do not speak with Iran with the language of sanctions but with the language of respect," he said, adding Iran would "not surrender to sanctions, nor be threatened with war".

He was referring to years of unsuccessful negotiations with the so-called P5+1 group of the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus

Germany over Iran's nuclear activities.

Washington was quick to respond, saying Iran would find the United States a "willing partner" if Rowhani was serious.

In Tehran, Rowhani said his goal was to improve the livelihood of ordinary Iranians whom he acknowledged were under "a lot of economic pressure" because of tough US and EU sanctions over Iran's refusal to stop uranium enrichment.

He said his government will take the path of detente, "creating mutual trust and constructive interaction. I say this frankly that Iran has never been bent on war with the world."

His remarks contrasted starkly with Ahmadinejad, whose anti-Israel diatribe and provocative rhetoric sparked repeated global condemnation.

Rowhani formally took office on Saturday at another ceremony in which he received the endorsement of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all key state affairs, including the nuclear issue.

Trial date set for Egypt Brotherhood leaders

CAIRO (AFP) - An Egyptian court on Sunday set a trial date for Muslim Brotherhood leaders in a move likely to enrage supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

It came as US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns met the army chief amid intense efforts to try to resolve the political crisis since the army ousted Morsi in a July 3 coup.

Supreme Guide Mohammed Badie, who is currently in hiding, and his two deputies -- Khairat al-Shater and Rashad Bayoumi -- who are being held in Cairo's Tora prison, are accused of inciting violence against protesters outside the Islamist group's headquarters on June 30.

They will face trial on August 25 together with three Brotherhood members who are accused of killing protesters.

Morsi himself has been formally remanded in custody on suspicion of offences committed when he escaped from prison during the 2011 revolt that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak.

Sunday's announcement comes after army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi met Burns, a military source said, stressing the need for national reconciliation based on an army-drafted roadmap providing for elections in 2014.

Sisi earlier met Islamist leaders to try to mediate a solution with Morsi supporters who have staged two major sit-ins for more than a month demanding his reinstatement.

He met "several representatives of the Islamist movements... and stressed that there are opportunities for a peaceful solution to the crisis provided



Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

all sides reject violence," army spokesman Colonel Ahmed Aly said in a statement.

Among those attending the talks were influential Salafist clerics Sheikh Mohammed Hassan and Mohammed Abdel Salam.

Several days of heated diplomatic activity in the Egyptian capital have seen visits by Burns, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and an African Union delegation lead by former Mali president Alpha Oumar Konare.

Supporters of Morsi -- Egypt's first freely elected president -- see his ouster by the military as a violation of

democracy and have insisted that nothing short of his reinstatement would end their protests.

They have called for more protests.

Authorities have repeatedly called on them to go home, promising them that a safe exit would allow Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood to return to political life.

After meeting Burns, the Brotherhood's political arm stressed its continued commitment to "legitimacy, which stipulates the return of the president, the constitution and the Shura Council," or upper house of parliament.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Feeling a bit violent? Maybe it's hot outside

WASHINGTON (AFP) - If the heat makes you cranky, take heart: you're not alone, according to a study out Thursday in the US journal *Science* that links rising tempers to hot temperatures.

The link could have worrying implications as the Earth's climate warms, researchers at the University of California at Berkeley and Princeton University warned.

While making predictions about the future is always iffy, lead author Solomon Hsiang said the current trend is clear: hotter weather makes people more violent.

Hsiang and his fellow researchers conducted a meta-analysis of 60 studies across a range of disciplines, including archeology, climatology, political science and economics.

One study, for instance, showed that, during the hotter and drier periods of the El Nino southern oscillation, "the probability of any country in the tropics starting a new civil war doubles."

Other studies showed the incidence of interpersonal conflicts -- from murder to rape to domestic violence and other types of assault -- goes up when it gets hot.

"We were surprised by both the consistency and the strength" of the link, Hsiang said, explaining it was evident



no matter what timeframe was being examined, whether a short heat wave, a years-long drought, or a cycle over centuries.

In order to rule out other factors for the rise in violence, the authors used a statistical analysis that compared single geographic locations to themselves over time -- so that the political, cultural and geographic histories were internally consistent.

They also tried to compare levels of violence where the climatic factors were very localized, to see how violence levels compared nearby where the weather stayed cooler.

In all cases, "the collected evidence shows that humans across the globe have proven poorly equipped to deal with exposure to hotter temperatures," co-lead author Marshall Burke said in a statement.

In times of drought or when harvests fail, economic factors

might push groups to take up arms.

High unemployment tends to leave a large pool of frustrated, bored young people in cities -- fertile recruiting ground for an army.

And the heat also seems to have a physiological effect that drives people to violent impulses, one that can be observed after just a few hours of exposure.



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Roots breakthrough for drought-resistant rice

PARIS (AFP) - Japanese biotechnologists on Sunday said they had developed a rice plant with deeper roots that can sustain high yields in droughts that wipe out conventional rice crops.

It is the third breakthrough in new cereal strains in less than two years, boosting the quest to feed the world's spiralling population at a time of worsening climate change.

This rice strain, also called cultivar, is called Kinandang Patong. Its big characteristic is roots that are deep and grow straight downwards, delving into parched soil for water, as opposed to root systems that are shallow and grow out sideways in typical water-rich paddy fields.

The gene for this, called Deep Rooting -- dubbed DR01 -- was spliced into a cultivar called IR64, a paddy rice plant that is grown around Asia.

The team then put the new plant through its paces, planting it and standard IR64 in upland fields in three kinds of conditions -- no drought, moderate drought and severe drought.

Moderate drought reduced yield from IR64 to just 42 percent of no-drought conditions. Severe drought destroyed it totally.

But IR64 with the DR01 gene was almost unaffected by moderate drought. In severe drought, yield fell -- but not catastrophically -- by around 30 percent.

Without genetic technology, it would have been ex-

traordinarily hard to have pinpointed, and then inserted, the right gene, said Yusaku Uga of the National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences in Tsukuba.

In January 2012, scientists in Britain and Japan said they had developed a fast-track technique, called MutMat, that identifies useful genetic variants, or mutations, in rice plants. They used it to derive a strain from Japan's Hitomebore wild rice that is resistant to salinity -- a boon for farmers whose fields have high salt content through irrigation.

The world's population is expected to reach 9.6 billion by mid-century, from 7.2 billion today, according to UN estimates. By 2100, the tally could be 10.9 billion.

To feed this rising number at a time of worsening drought and flood will require a campaign against food waste, smarter use of land, water, fertiliser and pesticides and agricultural innovation to select higher-yield or climate-resistant strains of cereals, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and France's National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA).

Improvements in rice strains -- leading to a short, stubby "semi-dwarf" plant with a full head of grain -- unleashed the Green Revolution of the 1960s, boosting harvests in China and other rice-dependent countries that used to teeter perpetually on the brink of famine.

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Man arrested in Spain over \$1.4m Chopard jewel theft



MARSEILLE (AFP) - A suspect in the theft of jewellery worth 1.4 million dollars (one million euros) during this year's Cannes Film Festival was arrested in June during a robbery on a Spanish island, sources confirming French newspaper reports said Sunday.

A 40-year-old French-Algerian man known as a notorious thief was caught in the act at a luxury hotel on the island of Mallorca on June 21 and taken into custody, Spanish police told AFP.

According to the Journal du Dimanche, the man was "formally recognised through images taken by cameras at the Novotel," the hotel in Cannes, France where the 1.4 million dollar theft occurred on May 17. The claim has not been confirmed.

"Comparisons were made" with theft from the Novotel, and the suspect was apparently "used to doing this kind of thing," said a source close to the investigation.

Chopard jewellery reportedly due to be loaned to film stars at Cannes was stolen from the hotel room of an American employee in a pre-dawn heist in May.

A strongbox containing jewels was ripped out of the wardrobe and carried off.

The jeweller redesigned the festival's Palme d'Or trophy and each year lends jewellery to stars for their walk up the red-carpeted steps at the Palais des Festivals.

French investigators would be able to interview the suspect when they received instructions from their Spanish counterparts, the source said.

Two men are being sought in connection with the Chopard jewellery theft, according to French police.

On Friday the safes of three rooms in the billionaires' resort of the Hotel de Saint Jean Cap Ferrat, east of Nice, were broken into and jewellery and other valuables estimated at 40,000 euros (\$53,000) were stolen, the hotel's management said.

And on Wednesday, local prosecutors said two men armed with a grenade and gun burst into a Cannes store selling luxury watches and made off with 100 to 150 items, just a couple of blocks away from the Carlton hotel, the scene of a record \$136 million (103 million euro) robbery a week ago.

US overturns Apple ban in blow to Samsung

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - The White House stepped into a patent war between Apple and Samsung Saturday by overturning a decision that banned the sale of certain iPads and iPhones in the United States. US Trade Representative Michael Froman announced the rare move -- a blow to South Korean Samsung -- saying in a letter he had decided to "disapprove" the exclusion order by the US International Trade Commission. The ban covers older devices that are no longer actively sold in the US market -- the AT&T iPhone 4 and iPhone 3 and 3GS, as well as the iPad 3G and iPad 2 3G, also sold by AT&T. Apple welcomed the move while Samsung slammed it.

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by Brian Crane



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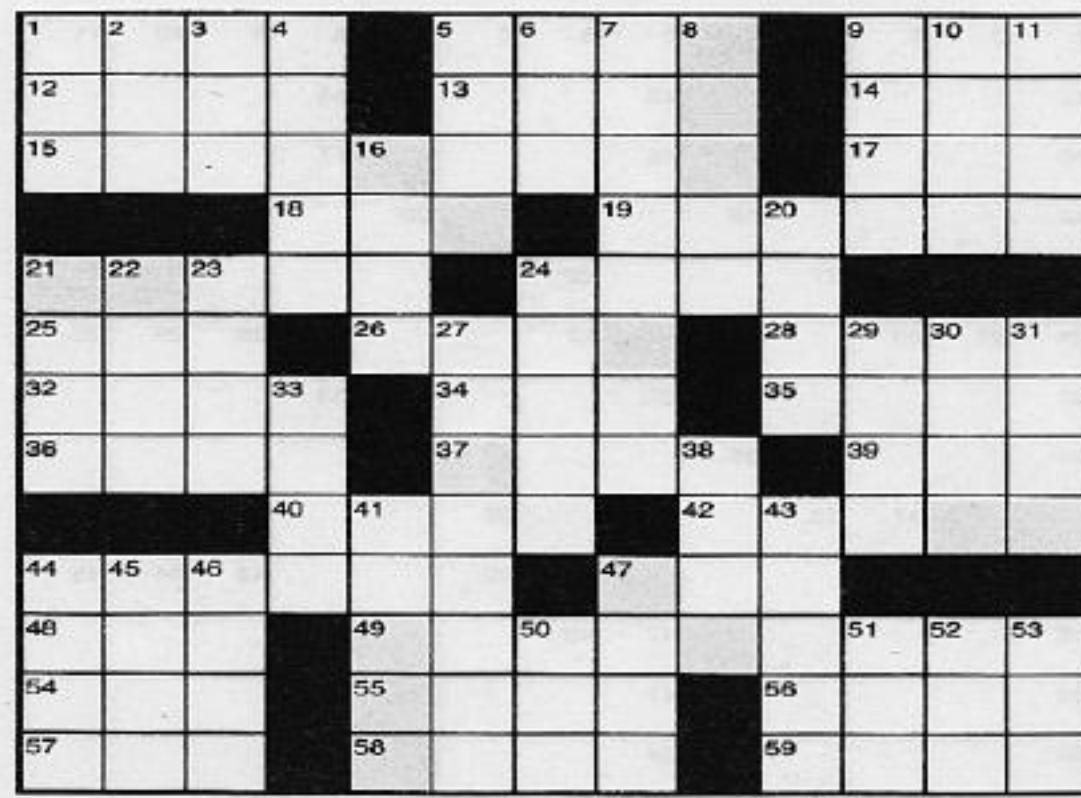


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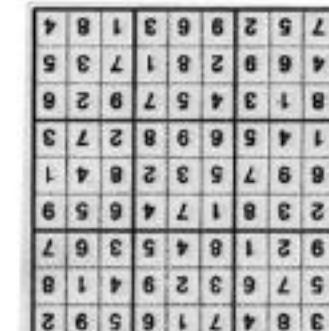
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| FREE Coverage on our website: www.themorningnewstt.com | | 54. Mattel product 55. Jeans inventor Strauss 56. Traditional wisdom 57. Question's opposite (abbr.) | for short 9. Sky color 10. "___ Lisa" 11. Shearing byproduct 16. ___ John Silver 20. Restraining influence 21. Wife of Zeus 22. Essentially similar 23. Sell wares 24. Whether ___ (2 wds.) |
| 9. German car inits. | 12. Soft French cheese | 58. PDQ's kin 59. Fast food request (2 wds.) | 21. Wife of Zeus 22. Essentially similar 23. Sell wares 24. Whether ___ (2 wds.) |
| 13. Stag | 14. Brit's bathroom | | 27. Motivates 29. Politician |
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| 17. Tres minus dos | 18. ___ Ami | 4. Leave alone (2 wds.) | Indian |
| 19. Fake | 21. Harbor | 5. After which | 31. Did farm work |
| 24. Orchestra instrument | 25. Make do | 6. Certain grain | 33. Tropical fruit |
| 26. Maiden | 28. Crawl | 7. Distresses | 38. Full of excitement |
| 28. Skating place | 32. Ship's course (abbr.) | 8. Dictation taker, | 41. "___ Gay" |
| 34. Wicked emperor | 35. "___ Love Her" (Beatles, 2 wds.) | | |
| 37. Slugger Sammy | 36. Itty-bitty | 12 | 13 |
| 40. Sobbed | 42. Like certain communities | 15 | 16 |
| 42. Two-piece swimsuit | 44. Two-piece swimsuit | 21 | 22 |
| 47. Turf | 48. Before, in poems | 23 | 18 |
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EASY CROSSWORD 16



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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FINANCE

Daimler to build Mercedes plant in Brazil

FRANKFURT - German carmaker Daimler plans to build a new plant in Brazil as rising taxes on foreign vehicles make it more difficult to sell imported cars in the Latin American country, a magazine reported yesterday.

Daimler's luxury brand Mercedes-Benz is to begin assembling C-Class model cars in Brazil by 2015, with a starting capacity of about 20,000 vehicles per year, German weekly Der Spiegel reported, without saying where it got the information.

A spokesman for Daimler

said the company was considering such a move but had made no decision yet. "We are looking at Brazil, just like various other locations," he said.

Luxury carmakers are flocking to Brazil in an attempt to exploit growing demand there. Brazil's government complicated their plans, though, with a drive to protect local jobs by increasing a tax on foreign-made cars last year.

BMW announced plans for a new assembly plant in Brazil last October and Audi is to decide next year whether to start making cars in Brazil.

Santos: Colombian economy is the 'third fastest growing' in Latam

** The Colombian economy is the third fastest growing in Latin America with a stable performance in 2012 of 4%, an estimated 4.5% this year and 4.7% in 2014, said President Juan Manuel Santos on making a balance of his three years in office.

"The economic strategy started in 2010 has been a success confirmed by data: inflation of 2.16% in the last twelve

months to June and unemployment going down for months and remains below two digits", said Santos who underlined that in the construction of a modern country infrastructure, a roads system so that production moves faster and safer, access to reliable energy and to technology "become essential for any economy".

Likewise the government has managed public monies

with 'prudence and responsibility', which generates confidence and spurs sustained growth with abundant domestic and foreign investments.

"Improved finance means resources for government priorities such as reducing inequality, inclusive policies and confirms a healthy, stable and competitive economy".

President Santos also pointed to the significance of Colombian access to new markets since the country's economy can't expect to grow only with the domestic market, "so that is why we need to conquer markets to further expand, generate prosperity and invest in social programs".

He said that this month (August) a trade agreement with the EU which was negotiated with Peru back in 2007 becomes effective opening the doors to a high income market of 500 million Europeans.

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HSBC bank closing accounts for diplomats in Britain

LONDON (AFP) - Global banking giant HSBC is closing the accounts of foreign diplomats in Britain and giving them 60 days to move their money, a report said yesterday.

More than 40 embassies and consulates are said to have been affected, including the Vatican, with the decision being described as creating "havoc" in the diplomatic corps.

The situation has been worsened by other banks refusing to take their business and the Foreign Office has had to get involved.

"We are in contact with HSBC and the diplomatic missions affected, and have provided a number of them with letters of introduction, to help in opening a new bank account," a Foreign Office spokeswoman told AFP.

However, under the Vienna

Convention covering diplomatic relations, Britain has no power to force commercial banks to provide services.

Bernard Silver, head of the Consular Corps, which represents consuls in Britain, told The Mail on Sunday newspaper: "HSBC's decision has created havoc."

"Embassies and consulates desperately need a bank, not just to take in money for visas and passports, but to pay staff wages, rent bills, even the (London road) congestion charge."

The London-headquartered bank said its decision was part of an assessment of business customers under which they must meet five criteria: "international connectivity, economic development, profitability, cost efficiency and liquidity".

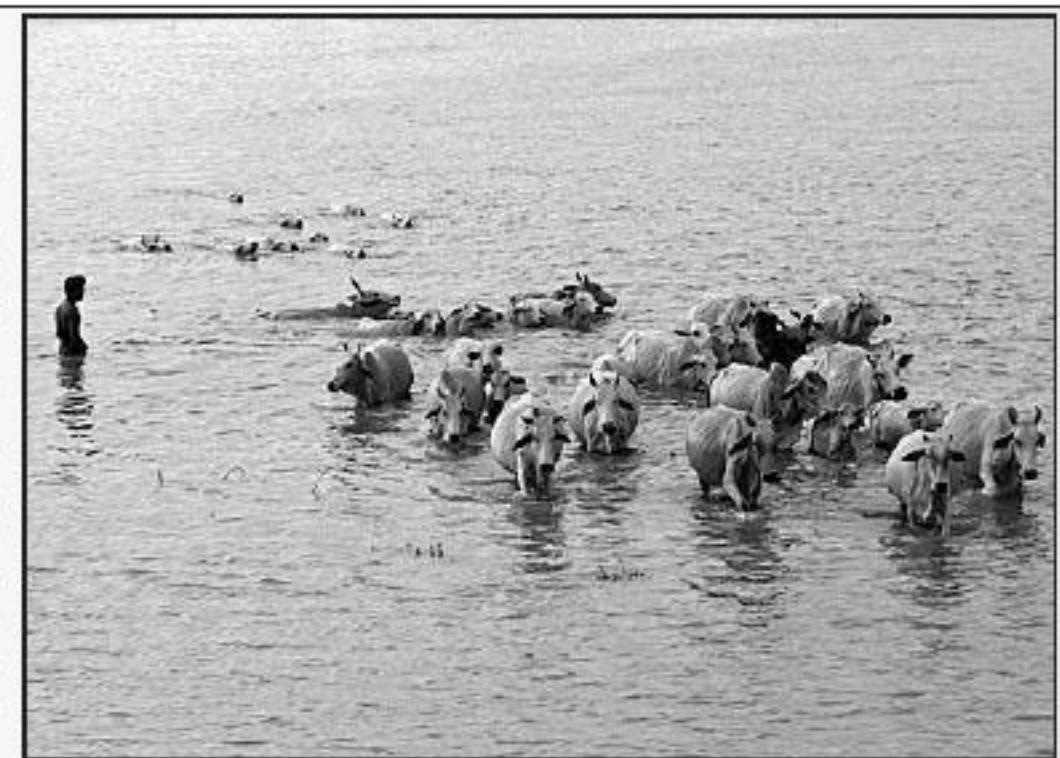
A spokesman told AFP: "HSBC has been applying a

rolling program of five filter assessments to all its businesses since May 2011, and our services for embassies are no exception."

The Mail on Sunday said one diplomat told them he thought the bank feared being exposed to embassies after being caught up in a costly money laundering scandal.

The United States agreed fines with HSBC of \$1.9 billion (1.4 billion euros) last year over allegations of money laundering that were said to have helped Mexican drug cartels, terrorists and Iran.

The bank admitted to having "inadequate" controls in place and accepted responsibility for the group's past mistakes, as part of an agreement with several US authorities including the US Department of Justice.



Petrocaribe interest rate to increase by October

CARACAS - Venezuela will increase the interest rate it charges to finance oil purchases by Central American and Caribbean states participating in the Petrocaribe oil trading agreement, according to unconfirmed reports circulating on the weekend.

The reports cited a source who claimed the increase was the result "of higher administrative and maintenance costs of the loans." Petrocaribe members purchase oil or refined products from Venezuela at favorable rates and through a long-term financing agreement at the low interest rates.

The initiative of the late Hugo Chavez, former President of Venezuela, came into effect in June 2005. Through the arrangement, 17 countries, including the Domini-

cian Republic, enjoy an annual interest rate of between one and two per cent.

Now there is speculation the interest rate will rise to 2-4 percent by October, with poorer states benefiting from a lower rate.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

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| A | C | T | G | A | P | P | E | A |
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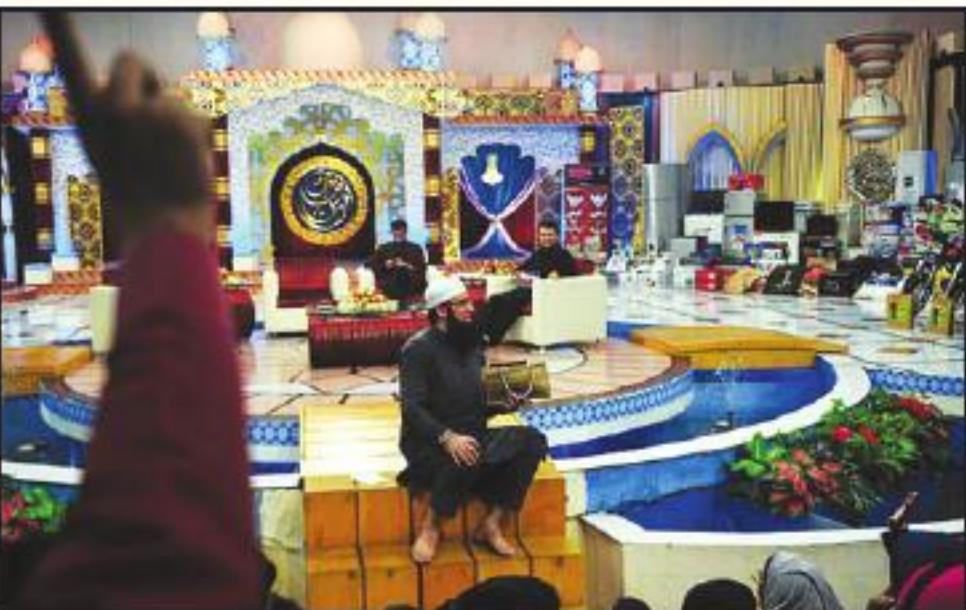
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Pakistan TV preachers battle for Ramadan ratings



KARACHI (AFP) - In the battle for TV ratings, Pakistan's top channels are making money out of Ramadan by broadcasting round-the-clock chat shows mixing prizes, charity and prayer. As the top-rated show fends off allegations of poor ethics for giving babies to childless couples live on air, producers tell AFP that there is nothing wrong with blending religion and entertainment. Members of the studio audience queue for hours for ringside seats at Aamir Liaquat Hussain's 12-hour, daily broadcasting extravaganza which combines microwave raffles with child adoption. With a closely cropped beard, spectacles and smile plastered permanently to his face, Hussain is no stranger to controversy. But unable to substantiate his alleged degree in Islamic studies from Spain, he revels in his status. "It is not commercialisation, it is not showbiz. It is real Islam," he told AFP. "I am the religious icon of television."



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'2 Guns' blasts to top of North American box office



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Action comedy "2 Guns" blazed its way to the top of the North American box office this weekend as the Smurfs were left feeling blue, estimated figures showed Sunday.

Based on a popular comic book series, "2 Guns" stars Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg as criminals turned undercover cops battling a drug lord.

Estimates from box-office

tracker Exhibitor Relations showed the film earned \$27.4 million on its weekend debut.

In second place was "The Wolverine", which sees the return of Hugh Jackman's popular portrayal of the claw-knuckled X-men character. The film took \$21.7 million in its second weekend.

But it was a dismal opening for cartoon sequel "Smurfs 2". The 3-D animated sequel to 2011's smash hit took in a dis-

appointing \$18.2 million, dealing another setback to Sony which is already under pressure after "White House Down" and "After Earth" flopped at the box office earlier this year.

In fourth place was horror film "The Conjuring," starring Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga in a drama about paranormal investigators. The low-budget film added another \$13.7 million in its third week, taking it past the \$100 million barrier.

The hit animated comedy "Despicable Me 2," meanwhile, dropped two places to fifth spot, with \$10.4 million.

The film featuring the voice of funnyman Steve Carell as a villain-turned doting father remains the highest-earning movie of the top 12 films on release, having raked in \$326.7 million dollars in North America so far.

Comedy sequel "Grown Ups 2" was in sixth spot, with \$8.1 million, just ahead of animated children's flick "Turbo" about a garden snail who dreams of racing in the Indy 500. "Turbo" took \$6.4 million.

Peres tells Barca stars they're 'messengers of peace'



Israeli President Shimon Peres (R) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) in Jerusalem on Sunday.

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli President Shimon Peres on Sunday praised Lionel Messi and his fellow Barcelona stars as "messengers of peace" as they made a brief visit to Israel and the Palestinians territories.

"Israeli and Palestinian children dream of two goals," Peres told the visitors in remarks broadcast on public radio. "Scoring the winning goal at Camp Nou, and the great goal of peace."

The players and staff arrived on Saturday on their "Peace Tour" and travelled to the West Bank city of Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity, where Jesus is be-

lieved to have been born.

After meeting Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas at his Ramallah headquarters they held a football clinic near the southern West Bank town of Dura.

On Sunday they visited Jerusalem's walled Old City to stand at the Western Wall, the holiest site at which Jews can pray.

After a reception at Peres's Jerusalem residence, the team later gave a coaching session to Israeli youngsters in Tel Aviv.

Peres, who turned 90 on Friday, delivered the opening kick.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."



Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site man-

agement's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in

finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Three migrants drown on perilous trek to Italy in rubber dinghy

ROME (AFP) - Three female migrants died during a treacherous voyage to Europe in a rubber dinghy and 174 others were rescued as they made their way to the Italian island of Lampedusa, media reported Sunday.

A group of 90 Somali immigrants was intercepted while drifting in a dinghy in the Canal of Sicily and was rescued by a merchant vessel that took them to Lampedusa.

Local media reported the migrants were exhausted and in poor condition after their five-day journey in the rickety vessel. The passengers reported the three women had died during the journey and that their bodies had been thrown overboard.

A separate group of 84 immigrants was rescued on Saturday by an Italian military boat south of Lampedusa.

Since 1999, more than 200,000 people have arrived on Lampedusa -- which is closer to North Africa than Italy -- making it, along with the Greece-Turkey border, one of the top gateways for undocumented migrants and refugees into the European Union.

Hundreds drown every year trying to reach the tiny island, which measures 20 square kilometres (7.8 square miles).

Lampedusa has seen an increase in arrivals in recent weeks, with around 4,000 so far this year -- three times more than during the same period in 2012.

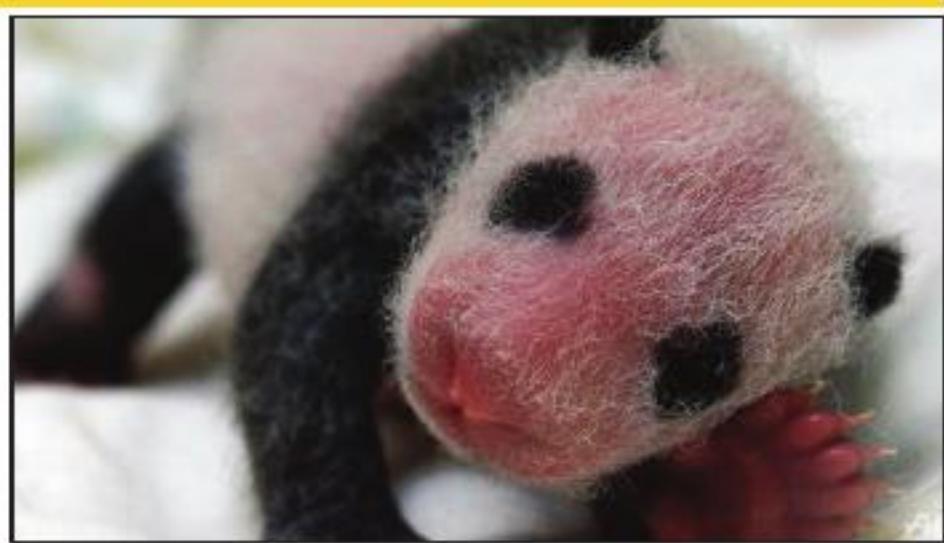
But the numbers are still far from the peaks reached in 2011 as maritime border controls disintegrated during the Arab Spring revolts in North Africa.

Baby-shower thrown for 1st panda born in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) - Taipei zoo held a "baby-shower" party Sunday to celebrate the one month birthday of the first panda born in Taiwan as the cub continues to be a star attraction even though she has yet to appear in public.

Hundreds of children accompanied their parents to attend the party, during which a video featuring the baby panda's growth was screened. Guests were also invited to experience

what it is like to feed a panda cub in an incubator using a replica. The cub was delivered on July 7 following a series of artificial insemination sessions after her parents, known as Tuan Tuan and his partner Yuan Yuan, failed to conceive naturally. Sunday's party copied the Taiwanese tradition where parents hold a celebration around a month after their newborns are delivered. The parents give cakes or oiled rice to friends and relatives in exchange for their blessings. The cub, however, could not attend her own party. She has been kept away from the public's gaze with the zoo saying visitors will need to wait three months to see her. The cub was slightly injured while being bred by her first-time mother a few days after she was born. Zookeepers Sunday also kicked off a naming campaign for the cub, with the public voting on what to name her and the final result expected to be announced on October 26.



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Golf: Hull makes Solheim history, Davies misses out

ST ANDREWS (AFP) - England's Charley Hull, the 17-year-old rookie, will become the youngest ever Solheim Cup player after she was handed a wild card by European captain Liselotte Neumann for the defence of the trophy against the USA.

Neumann's other three picks for the 13th Solheim Cup, which is being played at Colorado Golf Club from August 16-18, were Caroline Hedwall, Giulia Sergas and Jodi Ewart Shadoff.

Europe won the Cup in Ireland two years ago but have never won in the US.

The eight qualifiers were Suzann Pettersen, Carlota Ciganda, Catriona Matthew, Caroline Masson -- all from the Ladies' European Tour (LET) Solheim rankings -- and Beatriz Recari, Ana Nordqvist, Karine Icher and Azahara Munoz from the world rankings.

But the selection marked the end of an era. For the first time in the event's history England's Laura Davies has missed out.

"She knew she hadn't played

well enough but she wished me and the team all the best," said Neumann.

Hull was a member of last year's winning Great Britain and Ireland's Curtis Cup team that defeated the USA at Nairn in Scotland and she played under Neumann at the Junior Solheim Cup team two years ago.

As an LET rookie, she has had five runner-up places this season.

Pettersen and Matthew are the most experienced members of the team -- this will be the seventh Solheim for both. The team has six rookies -- Hull, Ewart Shadoff, Masson, Recari, Sergas and Ciganda.

USA captain Meg Mallon named Michelle Wie and rookie Gerina Piller as her two wild cards.

The qualifiers for the team were the new Women's British Open champion, Stacy Lewis, Paula Creamer, Cristie Kerr, Angela Stanford, Brittany Lincicome, Lexi Thompson, Jessica Korda and Brittany Lang from the US Solheim Cup rankings and Lizette Salas and Morgan Pressel from the world rankings.

His opportunities in Barca's midfield have been limited by the presence of international teammates Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets, while his role lying behind the main striker is occupied by four-time world player of the year Lionel Messi.

Man Utd have given up on Fabregas - Barca chief

BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta has claimed that Manchester United have abandoned their interest in Cesc Fabregas, according to reports in the Spanish media.

United, who have yet to make a major signing since David Moyes succeeded Sir Alex Ferguson as manager, have already had two bids for the Spanish international rejected by La Liga champions.

Despite claiming the first league title of his career last season, Fabregas has endured a largely frustrating time in the two years since he returned to the club he left as a 16-year-old to join Arsenal.

His opportunities in Barca's midfield have been limited by the presence of international teammates Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets, while his role lying behind the main striker is occupied by four-time world player of the year Lionel Messi.

However, with the sale of Thiago Alcantara to Bayern Munich and the 33-year-old Xavi expected to play fewer games this season, Zubizarreta insisted Fabregas will be a key part of the squad.

Fabregas scored twice on his first appearance of the season for the Catalans in their 8-0 hammering of Santos on Friday and has travelled with the squad to take part in coaching clinics in Palestine and Israel before they embark on a tour of Asia.



MEXICO CITY (AFP) Danilo Vveron (R) of Tigres scores the first goal and jumps over Pumas goalkeeper Alejandro Palacios during their Mexican Apertura tournament football match on Sunday. Tigres won 2-0 from Pumas. Today match: Universidad de Guadalajara vs. Pumas @ 7p.m. EDT



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SPORTS

Tennis: Del Potro beats Isner to win Washington title



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Argentine top seed Juan Martin Del Potro rallied to defeat US eighth seed John Isner 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday to win the ATP and WTA Washington Open.

Del Potro captured his third Washington title after crowns in 2008 and 2009 and stretched his win streak in the US capital to 14 matches to take the top prize of \$295,200 at the \$1.76 million hardcourt event, a tuneup for the US Open.

"I'm so glad to win again here," Del Potro said. "It felt unbelievable."

Seventh-ranked Del Potro, the 2009 US Open champion, won his 15th career ATP title and his second of the season after Rotterdam in February. It was Del Potro's first final since losing to Rafael Nadal in the Indian Wells final last March.

Del Potro, in his first event since an epic five-set loss to Novak Djokovic in the longest semi-final in Wimbledon history, improved to 4-0 all-time against Isner, but dropped a set to the ATP season aces leader for the first time.



NEW YORK (AFP) - Brazilian soccer legend Pele (C) and Carlos Alberto (L) and Spanish player Marco Senna (R) symbolically turn on the lights topping the Empire State Building green, the color of the New York Cosmos soccer team, in New York, August 1, 2013. The ceremony was held to honor the New York Cosmos's return to competition after nearly 30 years with Senna playing a midfielder. The Cosmos played from 1971 to 1985 in the North American Soccer League, bringing some of the biggest names in world soccer to the US, including Pele.

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Swimming: 'Honoured' Franklin wins historic sixth world gold

BARCELONA (AFP) - Teenager Missy Franklin became the first woman to win six gold medals at a world swimming championships as the USA took the women's 4x100m medley relay on Sunday in Barcelona.

Franklin swam the first leg as the USA clocked 3min 53.23sec to claim gold with Australia 1.99 back in second and Russia at 3.24 drift in third.

The 18-year-old claimed her six world title, having already won the 100 and 200m backstrokes, 200m freestyle, as well as the 4x100 and 4x200m freestyle relay titles at the Palau Sant Jordi pool.



Her haul matches Ian Thorpe of Australia at the 2001 world championships in Fukuoka, Japan, and has only been bettered by Michael Phelps' seven

last year after 18 Olympic golds and 26 world championship titles.

Having entered eight events in Barcelona, only the 50m



Missy Franklin competes in the final of the women's 4x100-metre medley relay

golds at Melbourne in 2007.

"It is an honour to be first woman to reach this landmark," said Franklin, who won five medals at the London 2012 Olympics, including four golds, and set the 200m backstroke record.

But Franklin rejected suggestions she is the female equivalent of swimming superstar Michael Phelps, who retired

backstroke, from which she withdrew after qualifying for the semi-finals, and the 100m freestyle, when she came fourth, eluded her.

In the end, the medley relay was a formality for the USA women after the men's team had seen victory snatched away from them after being disqualified when Kevin Cordes went too early in the second leg.

UFC 163: Aldo defeats Korean Zombie



-- Although he was billed as a "Korean Zombie" who could withstand an inordinate amount of damage, even Chan Sung Jung couldn't fight through an dislocated shoulder.

Jung (13-4 MMA, 3-1 UFC), a title challenger well known for his past durability, became easy prey for UFC featherweight champion Jose Aldo (23-1 MMA, 5-0 UFC) once the injury occurred in the fourth round.

Aldo, who was the WEC's final featherweight champion before the organization was folded into the UFC, now has

MLB Standings

| American League | | | | National League | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|------|-----------------|---------------|----|----|------|------|
| East | W | L | Pct | GB | East | W | L | Pct | GB |
| BOSTON | 68 | 45 | .602 | -- | ATLANTA | 66 | 45 | .595 | -- |
| TAMPA | 66 | 45 | .595 | 1.0 | WASHINGTON | 54 | 57 | .486 | 12.0 |
| BALTIMORE | 61 | 51 | .545 | 6.5 | PHILADELPHIA | 50 | 60 | .455 | 15.5 |
| YANKEES | 57 | 52 | .523 | 6.0 | NY METS | 49 | 60 | .450 | 16.0 |
| TORONTO | 50 | 60 | .455 | 16.5 | MIAMI | 43 | 67 | .391 | 22.5 |
| Central | | | | Central | | | | | |
| DETROIT | 64 | 45 | .587 | -- | PITTSBURGH | 67 | 43 | .604 | -- |
| CLEVELAND | 62 | 49 | .559 | 3.0 | ST. LOUIS | 65 | 44 | .591 | 1.5 |
| KANSAS | 56 | 52 | .519 | 7.5 | CINCINNATI | 61 | 51 | .545 | 6.5 |
| MINNESOTA | 45 | 60 | .444 | 15.5 | CHICAGO | 49 | 61 | .445 | 17.5 |
| CHICAGO | 40 | 69 | .367 | 24.0 | MILWAUKEE | 47 | 64 | .423 | 20.0 |
| West | | | | West | | | | | |
| OAKLAND | 64 | 46 | .582 | -- | DODGERS | 60 | 49 | .550 | -- |
| TEXAS | 61 | 50 | .550 | 3.5 | ARIZONA | 56 | 55 | .505 | 5.0 |
| SEATTLE | 52 | 59 | .468 | 12.5 | COLORADO | 52 | 61 | .460 | 10.0 |
| LA ANGELES | 51 | 58 | .468 | 12.5 | SAN DIEGO | 51 | 60 | .459 | 10.0 |
| HOUSTON | 36 | 74 | .327 | 28.0 | SAN FRANCISCO | 49 | 61 | .445 | 11.5 |

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MLB: A-Rod in crosshairs as MLB targets doping

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Baseball fans were braced to see sweeping sanctions meted out today against players who reportedly obtained banned drugs from a Florida clinic, chief among them Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez.

For more than a week, conflicting reports have surfaced over the fate of the Major League Baseball superstar, who has yet to play this season after hip surgery in January was followed by a quadriceps injury.

Rodriguez himself said after a minor league rehab start on Friday that he expected to join the Yankees for the first time this season today if he wasn't "struck by lightning".

But that's just what some reports have predicted will happen to the 38-year-old, three-time American League Most Valuable Player when they suggested MLB Commissioner Bud Selig could ban Rodriguez for life if he is judged to have impeded baseball's investigation of the Biogenesis affair.

Other media reports have indicated Rodriguez is more likely to receive a lengthy, but



not lifetime, ban, with Selig invoking his right to protect the best interests of baseball to prevent Rodriguez from playing during any appeal process.

Usually in baseball, players can continue to play while appealing disciplinary action.

Rodriguez indicated on Friday he believes the attempt to ban him is linked to an attempt to avoid paying all or some of the almost \$100 million remaining on his record \$275 million contract that runs through 2017.

"I think we all agree that we

want to get rid of PEDs -- that's a must," said Rodriguez, who admitted in 2009 to using steroids while he played for the Texas Rangers from 2001 through 2003, when they were not yet banned under major league rules.

That admission has shadowed his stellar achievements on the field, including a 2009 World Series title with the Yankees and 647 career home runs that put him fifth on Major League Baseball's all-time career list.

Thus far, none of the players

implicated in the game's latest doping scandal have tested positive under Major League Baseball's anti-doping test program, toughened in recent years after complaints from US lawmakers.

But anywhere from nine to more than a dozen players are reportedly set to receive suspensions, with MLB already negotiating with all or most of them -- except Rodriguez -- to accept their punishments and move on.

Some players have already been suspended for their links

to the clinic, including Milwaukee slugger Ryan Braun, Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon, and Toronto outfielder Melky Cabrera.

Among others linked to Biogenesis, in evidence first obtained by Miami New Times newspaper, are Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli, Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz, Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta and San Diego infielder Everth Cabrera.

The Detroit Tigers obtained Boston shortstop Jose Iglesias in a three-team transfer deal on Tuesday, the eve of Wednesday's major league trade deadline, in what some saw as a signal that Peralta will be suspended.

If the suspensions are handed down, it would be the most comprehensive doping ban imposed by the sport.

Several stars have admitted to doping and such icons as US home run king Barry Bonds and pitching legend Roger Clemens escaped doping charges in court cases but only after their legacies were tainted and the sport took a black eye with fans.